

CHARTER SCHOOL TESTING FACT SHEET 2003

STANFORD 9 & AIMS

Public charter schools are required by law to administer two tests, the State Norm-Referenced Test (Stanford 9), and Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS). Following are some facts that you need to know about both tests and your responsibilities regarding their administration.

Stanford 9

- All public schools must test grades 2 through 9 in reading, language and mathematics.
- The tests must be administered over a one week period between March 15 and May 1, 2002 at the discretion of the school.
- The contractor, Harcourt Educational Measurement, sends out ordering information each fall (usually in October) asking for the number of new materials needed. (Test booklets for grades 2-9 are re-usable and should be kept in locked storage. Answer documents are not reusable. Left-over answer documents should be destroyed.)
- The tests will be given only in English. The Aprenda will not be offered.
- For questions about the Stanford 9 please call (602)542-5031.

AIMS

- All public schools must test all students in grades 3, 5, 8 and 10 each year.
- Those 11th and 12th grade students that did not meet or exceed the standard previously must retest within those particular content areas as well. The graduating class of 2006 is expected to meet or exceed the standard in reading, writing and mathematics in order to graduate.
- AIMS must be administered April 29 - May 10, 2002 for grades 3, and 5, and 8.
- AIMS must be administered February 26 (writing, April 29th (mathematics) and April 30th (reading) 2002 for high school.
- Arizona Department of Education (ADE) has sent out forms for ordering tests. Please call (602) 542-5031 immediately if you have not requested materials.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

- ALL students, including students with disabilities, must be tested. There are no exceptions. Their current Individualized Education Program (IEP) must specify how they will participate in both tests and any necessary adaptations.
- If a student does not have an IEP but you are in the process of an evaluation, you are still required to test at the student's grade level without adaptations until such time as the IEP is developed and implemented.
- Each test must be identified in the IEP by name. Stanford 9 test and AIMS or AIMS-A are acceptable.
- AIMS-A is the alternative assessment for students with significant disabilities instructed at the functional and content readiness levels.
- An IEP may specify that the student take the test out of grade level. When testing is done, it must be done at the level of instruction; not at the level of performance or functioning.

The point of contact in Exceptional Student Services should be the ADE/ESS specialist assigned to your school. If you wish to contact the department reception desk the phone number is (602) 542-4013.

GENERAL TESTING QUESTIONS

What happens if we get a student just before the administration of one of the tests?

If a student enrolls the day before the test, you are responsible to test them. You can contact ADE for assistance in such a situation.

What happens if students are absent the day of the test?

If a student is absent, your school should have the School Governing Board's approved policy and procedures to ensure that they are tested.

Stanford 9: Makeup tests can be administered later in the week, planning for that contingency is recommended.

AIMS: At this time, makeup days are allowed for 3rd, 5th, and 8th grade AIMS tests only. No makeup tests are allowed for high school AIMS.

What happens if a student comes late to school the day of testing?

If a student comes late on test day, again your schools Governing Board should have an approved policy and procedure to ensure that the child is tested. It is in the school's best interest to have informed the parents and students in advance how important it is to attend, and be on-time for a ALL testing days.

How much of my academic day must be allotted to administer AIMS?

AIMS is not a timed test. Students must have as much time as they need to complete the test.

How do I know about the testing requirements?

The Arizona Department of Education sends regular AIMS Updates to all districts, principals, and charter holders. They have done so since January 1999. It is your responsibility to stay informed about the state accountability requirements such as AIMS and Stanford 9. Relevant AIMS documents are posted on the ADE website at www.ade.az.gov and can be viewed by clicking on the "State Tests and Academic Standards" link and then choosing "Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS)"